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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 3, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT PITTENGER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL JOSEPH BUCHE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to recognize Colonel Joseph Buche, who will retire next month after 30 years of commissioned service in the United States Army.

Colonel Buche was born and spent the first 12 years of his life in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he attended St. Joseph's Elementary School.

His father taught electrical engineering at the University of Arkansas, and

Colonel Buche still remembers walking from his family's home down to Razorback Stadium to see President Nixon arrive for the 1969 Texas-Arkansas football game, also known as the game of the century. While it didn't end well for the Razorbacks, few Arkansans who were alive then have forgotten that day.

Following his father's death, Colonel Buche moved with his family to Wisconsin, where he received a 4-year Army ROTC scholarship from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He was commissioned as an infantryman upon his graduation with a bachelor of science in 1984 and began what would become an exemplary career in the United States Army.

As a lieutenant and captain, Colonel Buche was a platoon leader and commanded four infantry platoon companies. Colonel Buche also served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as with the Old Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

His military honors include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oakleaf cluster, two Combat Infantryman Badges, and the Ranger tab.

On a personal note, Colonel Buche was my commander while I was stationed at the Old Guard in Arlington National Cemetery in 2007 and 2008 and while I was deployed to Afghanistan in 2008 and 2009. He set the highest standard for leadership, professionalism, and duty for every Old Guard soldier.

Finally, I also want to thank his wife, C.J., and their two daughters, Megan and Shelby. Military families carry a heavy load, too, and they also sacrifice much for our country.

C.J., Megan, and Shelby endured many days without their loving husband and dad, all so he could stand guard on the front lines of freedom around the world on our behalf. We are grateful to them.

On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I want to thank Colonel Buche and his family for their service and wish him all the best in retirement.

CONGRATULATING HOWARD ELEMENTARY READING CHAMPIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, reading is a fundamental education skill that provides a foundation for academic and life success.

On March 29, the Central Intermediate Unit No. 10, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, hosted their Elementary School Inter-scholastic Reading Competition. This is a great event that is integrated throughout the school year to promote reading.

Each year, the IU chooses a list of books to be read, and this year, 41 books were utilized for the competition. Students read books from the list and answer test questions that are created to measure the students' comprehension and recall of the books.

On competition day, students learn the value of hard work, the importance of reading, as well as teamwork. Along the way, they also have some fun.

The team with the highest number of points overall is awarded the grand championship. Clearly, every child that participates in this event benefits, as they are encouraged and motivated to expand their horizons through reading comprehension.

Congratulations to the students and faculty of the Howard Elementary School for being the 2014 Reading Grand Champions.

The Howard team, coached by Mrs. Amber Buchanan and Ms. Jalynn Wolesslagle, scored a total of 68 points. Congratulations to Mia Simonecek,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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